

material passing therethrough in different parts of the extruded slab to thereby vary the thickness across the thermoplastic materials being extruded;

heating a thermoplastic material to a fluid;

extruding a slab of said fluid thermoplastic material through said selected and adjusted thermoplastic extrusion die gates;

trimming said extruded thermoplastic slab having a variable thickness to a predetermined size;

placing said trimmed slab of heated thermoplastic material into a thermoforming mold; and

molding a predetermined thermoformed part in said mold, whereby a molded part is formed with a variable thickness from a slab of material heated during extrusion of the material.

REMARKS

Responsive to the Examiner's Action of May 25, 1999, Applicant has amended claim 1 in view of the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph rejection. The rejection cites the limitation "the extrusion" in lines 3-4 and "the thickness" in lines 5-6 and states that there is insufficient antecedent basis of these limitations in the claim. The claim has been amended to change "the extrusion of" to "extruding a slab of thermoplastic material". Applicant has deleted the definite article "the" in front of "thickness" as required by the Examiner even though Applicant believes that in a method claim, a step of "varying the thickness" (of material) does not require an antecedent basis.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Hobby, III
Registration #24,167

157 E. New England Avenue
Suite 375
Winter Park, Florida 32789
(407) 644-8888

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 8/20/99.

By: William M. Hobby III, Reg. #24,167